

## **Walk 1 West Field, River Wharfe and the mill settlement**

*3 miles (4.75km)*

Walk down Main Street with Green Terrace on your right. At its south end is Angle House with its 1877 datestone in Chapel Lane. Continue along Main Street past School House, thought to have been rebuilt in the early 1700s from a sixteenth century building of cruck construction.

Take the next right (Church Lane), passing on the left Green Cottage with its semicircular projecting chimney stack. At the top of the lane is Hebden Church, consecrated in 1841 as a chapel-of-ease (page 64). Prior to this date parishioners made much use of the path across the fields to the 'mother church' at Linton. It starts directly ahead, passing through a field gate (1 on the map), alongside which is a sign 'Footpath to Linton and Grassington'.

The path runs through the centre of the medieval West Field, rich in history and still displaying signs of the time when it was largely arable. With a wall on the left, head towards a gate in the corner of the first field. Keep close to the wall in the next field and at the far corner climb a step stile. With a wall now on the right, climb sharply towards another stile, this time with a small gate at its top. At this point (2) it is worth looking back at the wall snaking towards Hebden church, its reverse 'S' shape clearly reflecting the pattern of medieval ploughing and the need to have sufficient space to turn a large ox-team.

The path now enters the area known in medieval times as Cross Thorns (today Crawthorns), a name suggesting a hedged enclosure. Hawthorns and ash trees growing along lines of former walling are still to be seen. After crossing another step stile straight ahead, the path suddenly becomes less obvious. Turn right immediately over the stile and keep hard by the wall on the right to reach a signpost. Follow the direction indicated, heading just to the left of a prominent ash tree to a narrow gate in the corner of the field (3).

From here the route is clear as it continues in a virtually straight line, cutting across long and narrow enclosures. Their shapes are a reflection of medieval strip cultivation, as is the fact that one was still in triple ownership at the time of the 1846 Tithe Award.

A clearly signed 'dog's leg' takes the path over Howgill Beck and into Grassington township. The route continues to be either obvious on the ground or signed where there might be doubt, eventually dropping down to cross Hebden's original western boundary at Isingdale Beck. Keep straight ahead until the River Wharfe and the stepping stones to Linton church suddenly appear in view (4).

Turn round and briefly follow the same route in reverse, forking right after a few yards to join the Dales Way long-distance path. This heads across a large field and then hugs the wooded banks of the River Wharfe. Howgill Beck is crossed again to reenter Hebden.

Eventually the Dales Way reaches the suspension bridge (5), a lasting memorial to the skills of local blacksmith William Bell, who built it in 1885 (page 78). After a last look at the Wharfe, head back towards the village, turning right onto the 'Skuff' road and then immediately left once across the bridge over Hebden Beck. On the right is The Grange (6), formerly the corn mill (page 46).

The route runs between two houses, beyond which on the right is the high retaining wall of the now demolished cotton mill built in 1791 (page 47). A signpost showing four separate paths is soon reached. To continue on Walk 2 and thus create a figure-of-eight route, turn right at this point and follow the 'Bank Top' sign.

Otherwise veer slightly left (signed 'Hebden') and cross the beck again, passing both the former mill dams and today's fish farm. The prominent mound on the right is the spoil from the Hebden Moor Mining Company's last great venture (page 62) and on top of it are the ruins of William Bell's smithy. The path stays close to the beck before climbing up a cobbled causeway to regain Main Street.

## **Walk 2 East Field, Bank Top and Ranelands**

*2 miles (4km)*

Head down Main Street, passing on the left the Old School Tea Rooms. As the name suggests this was until 1983 the village school (page 73). Within a few yards turn left through a kissing gate signed 'Hebden Suspension Bridge' and 'Hartlington Raikes'. The path follows the return route of Walk 1, passing the mill dams before crossing the beck and reaching the four-way signpost (1).

The route is signed left to 'Bank Top' with a further sign at the wall corner above. Follow the direction indicated towards a gate to the right of a large barn (2). Most of the route now lies within what was originally a large common pasture before the lower portions were turned into meadow or arable land to create the medieval East Field.

Once past the barn it is a gradual climb to the top left-hand corner of the field where there is a narrow gate. This leads into a close once known as Bull Cobby, where the community bull was housed conveniently

near to the pasture and his potential wives! To the right is Ratlock Lathe (3) in Kecklocks Field - both names thought to be associated with cow parsley-while the rocky hill behind them is Eagle Crag.

The route ahead is clearly signed over a couple of ladder stiles. After the second stile, veer slightly away from the wall on the left and soon Bank Top Farm on the main Grassington to Pateley Bridge road comes into view. Head towards the modern barn on its left and the signed route to the road is soon clear. Turn right and follow the road past Bank Top (4), which was long owned by the Swale family. The encounter with potential traffic is only brief, as immediately past the farm turn right through a stile with a sign 'Hartlington Raikes'.

After another stile follow the wall on the left, continuing to do so when it turns a right angle. After a gate with a narrow stile at its side, veer right to face the forestry on Burnsall Fell and head towards a wall corner. Keep the wall on the left and pass through a stile with a top gate on either side. Both in the sixteenth century and at the time of the 1846 Tithe Award much of this area (5) was known as Bents - a name associated with relatively poor pasture.

Head towards the left of the tallest tree on the skyline, a metal gate giving access to Hartlington Raikes road. Turn right down the road for 350yds to reach a ladder stile opposite South View Farm (6). Take the path signed 'Hebden', the route over three successive stiles also being clearly signed.

Follow the wall on the left past two trees, a finger-post indicating the point where the path veers right in the direction of the TV mast on the far skyline. At this point, in the centre of a field of 25 acres (10 hectares), it is possible to get the feel of the old common pasture with the land stretching away on every side and few nearby walls in sight. Soon there are splendid views over towards Hebden, the river, Thorpe's reef knolls and Burnsall Fell.

On the brow of the hill, with Bents Lathe well to the right, pick up a green track that snakes down to a gate. The track continues to drop steeply down to double metal gates at the entrance to Ranelands Farm (7). The only Hebden farm created entirely within a former common field, the earliest documentation of the house is in 1747 (page 41). Note the fine weathervane with a bull on it.

Pass through the gate to the left of the barn with its 1790 datestone. Head diagonally across the field to the far corner, passing through two stiles to reach the four-way signpost close to the start of the walk ('1'). Return to the village by the outward route.

### **Walk 3 Hole Bottom and Garnshaw**

*1\_ miles (3km)*

Walk along Main Street towards the crossroads, passing on the left the Village Institute opened in 1903 (page 80). Part of the building on the opposite side of the main road was the original Clarendon inn, later the Jolly Miners (page 75). Cross the B6265 and follow the surfaced road straight ahead with its gradual climb up Town Hill. A high wall on the left shields much of the early seventeenth century Town Head Farm, behind which is an impressive barn (page 42).

After passing through a gate the road enters the High Green (1). The wall on the left formed the boundary with the north-west common field and has characteristic large boulders at its base as well as a few 'anti-jump' stones along the top. Also on the left is a fine example of a traditional sheep-wash (2), where the animals were penned and then put into a stream that had been dammed.

The road goes through another gate. At the foot of the steep hill ahead it is worth entering the field on the right to see Scale Force (3), an attractive waterfall deriving its name from the Old Norse 'skali' (page 16). Return to the road and climb over Scale Haw to reach the hamlet of Hole Bottom (4)

The farmhouse on the left has a 1743 datestone, the 'WR' initials referring to its rebuilding by William Rishworth, 'gentleman' of Grassington (page 44). On the opposite side of the road the first cottage on the right has a Yorkshire sliding-sash window at first-floor level. It was probably built in 1675 for the marriage of Mary Knight and Henry Rathmell.

Those combining this route with Walk 4 pick up the description here. With the cottage behind you, follow the tarred farm road that climbs a hill and runs above the aptly named Paradise Beck. Beyond a cattle grid the right-of-way goes through a series of stiles, although most users seem to stick to the parallel track. This passes farm buildings, the field stretching ahead being New Ears, a name that often causes mirth among those in the know. It comes from the Old English for a rounded hillock or buttock (drop the first letter of 'ears' to get the general drift!).

Track and path lead to High Garnshaw Farm (5), owned by the Young family in the eighteenth century and bought by Matthew Wilson of Eshton Hall in 1799 (page 45). Until the eighteenth century the term 'Garnshaw' was widely applied to that part of the township north of the turnpike road and west of Hebden Gill.

Keep to the left of the farmhouse garden and turn left onto Tinkers' Lane. This soon passes through a gate and enters an extension of Hebden's moorland. The wall to the right forms the boundary with Grassington and also of Hebden's stinted pasture. It has been built in sections marked by abutting wall-heads, placed close to boulders inscribed with differing initials that probably signify the stinholders responsible for the upkeep of specified lengths.

The track gradually climbs and affords magnificent views over Hebden village and down Wharfedale. Bear left at the point where another track comes in from the right, the route following a wall on the left to reach a marked corner. Turn left over the ladder stile and drop down to Pickering End (6), probably built soon after 1721 when the land formed part of an endowment made by Richard Fountain to fund his almshouses at Linton (page 43).

Turn right before the farm croft as signed, passing through a narrow gate and heading towards the clearly visible ladder stile. This surmounts the gradually curving boundary wall of the north-west common field, which characteristically was loosely oval-shaped. The portion between here and the village was known as Sedbar, from the Old Norse 'sed-berg' meaning a seat-shaped hill.

Head across the field to a squeeze stile left of a gateway. Turn left to follow the wall to a ladder stile and then go diagonally down the next field to a gate at the far corner. Follow the track past sheep pens, beyond which you turn right into a walled lane to reach the main road just above the Clarendon inn.

#### **Walk 4 The Lead Mines**

*3 miles (4.75km)*

As with the previous walk, head over the crossroads but this time bear right across the 'old bridge' that dates back to the mid eighteenth century (page 38). Go past the jumble of houses forming the first part of Brook Street. A little further along on the right are Nos 7, 8 and 9, originally a high status dwelling that became part of a terrace for mill workers and lead miners (page 48).

At the end of Brook Street a gate opens onto the High Green, with on the right what was the village pinfold (7) for impounding stray animals. The route runs alongside the beck to reach a stile just past a footbridge. The graded path now climbs to another stile, beyond which keep a wall on the left to reach a further stile close to a ruined barn. The path now closely follows the wall on the right and gradually climbs, with Scale Force usually audible if not readily visible.

Eventually the land levels out and forms Hell Field - nothing to do with Satan but merely a corruption of Ell and indicating that it was originally L-shaped. The path now veers left away from the wall and heads over the brow of the field to a narrow gateway giving access to the Scar Side. High up on the left are vertical crags with a detached section of the cliff forming the Falling Rock-part of it actually fell in 1947.

The route now becomes challenging as what is locally known as the Twiny Path twists and turns steeply up the fellside. It has all the appearance of an embanked packhorse track and tradition maintains that it was a route used by the monks of Fountains Abbey who rested from the climb at Scar Top (8), the 'long house' occupying a commanding position on the right.

The climb ceases immediately after passing through a gateway. Turn right with a wall on the right to reach a stile and a field rich in heather. Cut across left to a track and turn sharp left back towards a cattle grid. Do not go over the grid but instead keep straight ahead with a wall on the left. Mossy Moor Reservoir, which served both the cotton mill and the lead mines (page 59), comes into view.

Ahead the route is clearly apparent as it passes through a series of gateways. At various times on the left are traces of old coal pits as well as ruined pillars that carried the long power rope from a waterwheel at Hole Bottom to Bolton Gill shaft (page 59). More of these pillars eventually appear on the right close to the track (9), which at this point passes a coal level before dropping into Bolton Gill. Just before the bottom look to the right up the Gill to see the entrance to the 250ft deep shaft, a key feature of the Hebden lead mining enterprise (page 56).

The right-of-way now makes a U-turn to join the main track down Hebden Gill, running alongside a small dam that supplied the dressing floors. Immediately beyond it on the left is the entrance to Bottle Level, the first and most successful of the mining company's underground ventures.

Much is still to be seen on the dressing floors, directly through the gate ahead (10). First are the remains of 'bouse-teams", where the material or 'bouse' that came out of the level was processed according to quality. Some was moved to crushing rollers or botching tubs, designed to separate good ore from rubbish and powered by a waterwheel. The wheel pit is still clearly visible to the left of the track, with above it the remains of what is thought to be Engine House. Here lived the 'Attender to wheels and pumps' (page 60).

Go through a gateway after passing Charger Level on the left. Just before the next gateway, across the beck on the right, is the walled-up entrance to Duke's Level (11), the staggeringly expensive project that brought a new lease of life to the Grassington mining field (page 51).

The track soon passes a small waterfall tumbling down from Mossy Moor Reservoir and then Longshaw Level. This section of the Gill becomes increasingly dramatic, with the beck rushing past crags that tower to the skyline. It must have looked even better before construction of the cart track to the mines in about 1856.

High up on the left above the next gateway is the Rocking Stone (12), once so evenly balanced on the crag below that it could be moved at the touch of a finger. Stretching down from it is a masterpiece of 'enclosure award' walling, built in 1857/8 to follow a line drawn on a map by a surveyor without much thought for natural contour and ground conditions (page 71).

The retaining wall parallel to the road carried the pipeline from Longshaw Level to the waterwheels driving the power rope to Bolton Gill and the smelt mill bellows.

Little trace now remains of either of these enterprises, although the tail-race from the first wheel can still be found on the right of the road a few yards past a modern weir. The smelt mill stood on the flat piece of ground just to the left of the picturesque Miners' Bridge (13).

Cross the bridge to reach the hamlet of Hole Bottom. If returning via Walk 3, turn right just past the cottages on the left. Otherwise continue on the now surfaced road to return to the village.

## **Walk 5 Hebden Village**

*1\_ miles (2 km)*

Start at the Post Office and head north passing the Village Institute on the left (page 80). Just before crossing the B6265 (carefully) take a look straight ahead down Brook Street. These houses were mainly built for farm workers in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century with no 7-9 being of particular interest in that it contains unique plaster friezes. It is called the Manor House (1) but then so is another to which we will come later.

After crossing the main road and passing the second bridge, to Brook Street, turn left after about 100 yards (Sign posted 'Bridlepath') go through the white painted iron gate and note two barns. One on your immediate left which has been converted and a few yards further on the second on the right (2). Both of these seem to make a statement like buying a posh car. They have some very fine architectural detail. Follow the wide path to the left and be aware of the fine new dry stone walls on your right which shield the yard of one of Hebden's entrepreneur's, Longthorne Brothers, who run about 40 trucks carrying mainly limestone from the surrounding quarries.

Follow the path back to the main road, through a wooden gate, cross the main road on to Brayshaw Lane or locally called Back Lane. This was the original thoroughfare through the village before Main Street. Continue down Brayshaw Lane being aware that you are on the west boundary of what is a planned village, the plan being instigated c. 1300. If you look at the map it is fairly obvious that the village is divided, between Main Street and Back Lane, into eight strips, the northern one being diagonally divided by the main road. These are referred to as Tofts and Crofts each one, in the main, having a significant house on it which in the past formed the farming nucleus of the village. There is now only one working farm in the village the other seven are as satellites, around the edges of the town fields.

If the church is open (3), take a quick look inside. A good solid building of 1841 with a very fine Harrison & Harrison organ which was put in by ..... who's grave is in the yard near the gate???????????????

Go down Church Lane back to Main Street and turn right. If you look over the wall to your left across the valley and at about the same eye height, you will see a small building without a roof and to the right of that a rounded entrance. This is the entrance to Hebden New Level and was mined between 1873 and 1888. It penetrates into the hillside, in almost a straight line, for over 2 \_ kilometres (page 61).

Carry on south down Main Street passed some of the afore mentioned significant houses, Green House, Croft House and Chestnut House then when the road starts to wiggle, on the left is Manor House (4). On this site is thought to be the original manorial building as in very dry weather lines of foundations are obvious in the lawn and a fish pond is discernable in the croft adjacent to the south.

A rough snicket joins from the right. This is the continuation of Back Lane and the original thoroughfare through the village.

Continue on past some large, seen better days, wooden buildings. These were built in 1909 for a CHA Guest House (5) (page 82). There is a very successful nursery school in one corner.

Down the hill in a Holloway, which indicates the age of this road, and looking ahead the River Wharfe will be seen, with through the trees, the suspension bridge built in 1885 alongside the stepping stones put in many centuries earlier.

Immediately after crossing the road bridge over Hebden Beck turn left. On the right is the building that contained the manorial corn mill (6). This dates before 1693 and it is possible that there was a previous mill on the same site.

Walk between the two modern houses, passed a conifer wood on the left and up into the fields and over the issue from Johnson's Gill (7). The large wooden huts and the fibreglass tanks constitute a salmon farm. Over \_ a million fish are brought on every year, hatched from eggs, and after about 15 months sent up to the sea pens in Scotland. Carry on over the bridge passed the weir, just north of the fish farm and the old mill ponds. These are supplied by Thruskell Well (8), which can always be relied upon, and supplements the beck water in drought conditions.

Go through a wooden kissing gate, up a rise and looking across the beck there is the huge spoil heap from the lead mine and a stone wall at the bottom of this which is the old wheel pit (page 61). Now over a style, right close to the beck and up a cobbled path, no doubt put in for the miners to pass to and fro from the village. (The rise up to the roofless building near the mine entrance is called Smithy Hill (9) because this is where William Bell, blacksmith had his smithy and from which he probably made the suspension bridge across the Wharfe. Page 77.)

On the right is the old school (10) and passing through a metal kissing gate takes you onto the Main Street once again and then it is only a few yards back to the Post Office.